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A Study of the Movement and Structure of Genus Halteria

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Poster Presentation P75

A STUDY OF THE MOVEMENT AND STRUCTURE OF GENUS HALTERIA

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Freshwater ponds teem with life of many varied and strange sorts, and the protozoan of the genus Halteria is an example of the great biodiversity present inside a single drop of pond water. These ciliated protozoans have the ability to move up to 20 body lengths in the blink of an eye, giving the appearance that they "jump" through the water. The body structure of Halteria has been studied by previous researchers, revealing a possible anatomical structure for this jumping, but the mechanism for this movement remains unexplained. However, some hypotheses have been put forth by scientists attempting to account for the odd movement patterns of Halteria. Additionally, the evolutionary significance for this type of movement also remains unknown and unpostulated, but will be discussed. In this study, the jumping movement will be both observed and evaluated for time between jumps and also for velocity calculations.